

FEEL THE BLOCKADE

Residents of Havana Paying War Prices for Provisions.

STRENGTHENING THE CITY'S DEFENSES

Steamer Lafayette Landed Her Cargo, but Reloaded It.

SPANISH OFFICER DESERTS

(Copyright, 1898, by Associated Press.) HAVANA, May 19, via Vera Cruz, Mexico, May 13.—The weight of the blockade is beginning to be felt here. Business is almost at a complete standstill and there is hardly any movement in the streets, which have a sort of holiday appearance. The parks are almost deserted and there are very few people to be seen on the Plaza de Armas at night. The hand plays there and everything possible is done to keep up the spirits of the people.

There is a feverish desire to leave the island, and over 5,000 people booked at the office of the consignees of the French steamer Lafayette, which leaves here today for Vera Cruz, Mexico, with this letter, which will be posted at that port.

A Panic Prevails.

In fact, an actual panic now prevails, while when the blockade commenced there was a feeling almost of serenity among all classes. But things have changed. The grim earnestness of the Americans is steadily impressing the minds of even the most hot-headed Spanish officers, though the latter are working vigorously at the fortifications, which have been considerably strengthened and improved since the war began. The Spaniards, it must be admitted, are preparing to fight as desperately as possible under the circumstances.

Many families without means are striving to emigrate, trying to borrow money from more fortunate people, in order to be able to pay their passage money. But it is hard to see how their condition will be improved to any great extent even if they do succeed in leaving the blockaded city, for they have been rendered penniless, and their chance of earning a livelihood in a foreign country is very slim.

There is considerable feeling against the men who are desirous of leaving the city, and the corners of houses all over the town you can see such notices as the following:

"Here are sold women's shirts for the men who are abandoning the Island of Cuba."

There has been no disorder in this city or in the provinces, so far as known, though it is true people here are entirely ignorant of what is transpiring at Santiago, no mail having been received from there for some time past and the cable being in the hands of the government and almost exclusively devoted to further the military operations, which are about limited to evacuating the interior towns and concentrating the Spanish forces at or about the large cities.

It is reported here that Santa Cruz del Sur, on the south coast of the province of Puerto Principe, has fallen into the hands of the insurgents. If this is the case, the latter now have a port at which their friends can land arms, ammunition and supplies without interference.

Other important events are said to have transpired at Santa Cruz del Sur. The officers of the Spanish gunboat Cuba Espanola have reached Sancti Spiritus, province of Santa Clara, by land, and are on their way to Tunas, and from there by steamer to Cienfuegos. One of the officers is said to be the commander of the Cuba Espanola, which was burned by the U. S. S. Albatross, and some of them have reached other coast towns by this time.

Although the prices of provisions here are very high, it is calculated that there is food enough obtainable to last about five months because, it is claimed, considerable stores were laid in before the blockade, and no provisions are allowed to be sent from the coast to the interior towns.

Eggs cost 10 cents each.

A glass of milk costs from 20 to 25 cents, and the size of the loaf of bread has been reduced one-half. This, however, was done before the blockade began.

There are thousands of men from the cigar, tobacco and other factories out of work, and the authorities are employing as many of them as possible on the fortifications. The wharves are entirely cleared of merchandise, not a box, barrel or sack being seen, and the idle people congregate and enjoy the fresh air while talking over the war.

Idle Men Cause Anxiety.

The number of men idle is a matter which causes the authorities considerable anxiety. Up to the present they have been provided with food in one way or another, mainly by their former employers being compelled to contribute toward their maintenance, but the time must come when the men will feel the pangs of hunger, and then rioting is to follow.

People here are looking forward with apprehension to the eventual triumph of the insurgents, as it is believed they will wreak terrible vengeance upon the Spaniards and upon those who have sympathized with the latter.

The bulk of the Spaniards, however, are filled with warlike enthusiasm, and are looking forward with confidence to an eventual triumph over the American forces.

They have great faith in the strength of the Spanish fleet and the valor of the Spanish soldiers, and are looking forward hopefully to the blockade being raised by the naval force sent from Spain. As soon as a few cannon shots are heard from the forts the shores of the bay, San Lazaro avenue and the roofs of the houses are immediately crowded with people, who cheer wildly when a shot is seen to fall anywhere near one of the American warships.

Strategic Points Occupied.

The Spanish officers say all the strategic points about the coast have been occupied by troops and that it will be difficult to effect landings. Ambuscades have also been prepared at various points, and they say Havana is so well fortified that an army of 50,000 men will be needed to reduce the city.

New reinforcements have been thrown up, and more heavy artillery has been mounted, but it is difficult to obtain any accurate details of such work. Any inquiries on the subject are liable to cause the arrest of the person putting the question, and newspaper men, particularly correspondents, are continually under suspicion. They are carefully watched, and it is only with the greatest difficulty that mail letters can be smuggled out of the city. The censor is more exacting than ever, and any news which he allows to be cabled is strictly official.

The guards yesterday captured a man who was going out in a small fishing boat with mail for the American fleet, and the writer is informed that he was shot the same afternoon.

Misery in Many Places.

The Pals, organ of the autonomist party, says great misery prevails at Matanzas and at Cardenas and other towns on account of the scarcity of provisions, and the paper adds that the country people are now in a worse condition than they ever were before.

All sorts of misleading rumors are intentionally circulated by the Spanish officials here for their own purposes, and the tales of Spanish repulses of American forces come in at almost regular intervals and from nearly every point about the blockaded portion of the coast, to say nothing of the stories of brilliant Spanish victories which are said to have reached here from abroad. For instance, today a rumor, traced to the palace, said: "The Spanish fleet, after a heroic defensive battle with an American fleet at Cavite, Philippine Islands, lost two vessels and about 300 killed and 400 wounded, after which the Spanish officers refusing to surrender, and in order to prevent the Spanish fleet from falling into the hands of the Americans blew up all the rest of their vessels."

The palace report also said the American fleet at Manila was bombarding that city, and that, in consequence, the Spanish authorities and the garrison of Manila had retreated into the interior. Later, the following "official news" was published: "A Spanish fleet has fought heroically with an American fleet at Cavite, obliging the American fleet to retreat with considerable loss. The Spanish losses were also very heavy."

Expect a Naval Victory.

Of course, the greatest interest is taken here in the approaching meeting between the Spanish and American fleets in these waters. The fleet from Spain is expected at almost any moment, and is being constantly watched for, day and night signals are ready to give the fleet the word to start. It is expected that the result of the battle will decide the war in favor of the United States or Spain, and it is impossible to make the Spaniards doubt the eventual triumph of the yellow and red flag of their country.

The French steamer Lafayette arrived here from Key West on Saturday morning, May 7, and commenced unloading her cargo and allowed her passengers to come on shore. When nearly all the cargo had been taken ashore the French consul and the consignee of the Lafayette received dispatches from the French ambassador at Washington, saying a compromise arrangement had been arrived at with the United States government by which the Lafayette had been allowed to enter the Havana harbor, but with the understanding that her cargo and passengers were not to be landed.

The compromise was a compromise, since the French consul, Gen. Blanco, and later with the members of the colonial government with the result that "permission was obtained" to reload the cargo of the Lafayette "so as to comply with the desire of a friendly nation (France) without establishing any precedent and reserving all rights for action in the matter in the future in any similar case."

Theaters Are Open.

In spite of the lonesome appearance of the city the theaters are open and are generally full, though the absence of great numbers of the better classes of society is noticed.

The Spaniards recently tried to construct a fort at La Carabana, near Matanzas, but were prevented by the fire of some American warships, which destroyed the works every time the Spanish soldiers were seen engaged upon them.

A colonel of the civil guards, Senor Mello, who appears to have gambled away large sums of money belonging to the regiment he commanded, has gone over from Colon to the insurgent ranks.

ARMY NOMINATIONS.

A Large Number of Selections Sent to the Senate.

The President today sent these nominations to the Senate:

War—Capt. Patrick Henry Ray, 8th United States Infantry, to be colonel 3d Regiment United States Infantry; Capt. Jas. S. Pettit, 1st United States Infantry, to be colonel of 4th Regular United States Volunteer Infantry; First Lieutenant Herbert H. Sargent, 2d United States Cavalry, to be colonel of 5th Regiment United States Volunteer Infantry; Laurence D. Tyson of Tennessee, to be colonel 6th Regiment, United States Volunteer Infantry; Lieut. Charles S. Riche, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., to be colonel of 1st Regiment United States Volunteer Infantry; Duncan N. Hood of Louisiana, to be colonel of 2d Regiment United States Volunteer Infantry.

Adjutant general's department—Lieut. Col. Theodore Schawn, assistant adjutant general, with rank of colonel; Maj. William Harding Carter, assistant adjutant general, to be assistant adjutant general, with rank of lieutenant colonel.

To be chief surgeons, with rank of major—George Cook of Concord, N. H.; William H. Daly of Pittsburg, Pa.; Clayton Parkhill of Denver, Col.; James M. Jenne, surgeon general of Vermont; Herbert W. Cardigan, surgeon general of Oregon; James H. Hyslop of Fortney, Ohio; Leonard B. Almy, medical director of National Guard of Connecticut; Charles B. Nancrede, professor of surgery, University of Michigan; Henry F. White of St. Paul, Minn.; Thomas Earle Evans of Woodward, Ala.; Jefferson D. Griffith, medical director, National Guard of Missouri; R. Emmett Giffin, surgeon general of Nebraska; Wm. Boeckmann, National Guard of Minnesota; Thos. C. Kimball of Marion, Ind.

To be assistant adjutant general, with rank of major, Capt. Charles H. Hill, 25d Infantry; Capt. John A. Johnston, 8th Cavalry; H. Kyd Douglass of Maryland.

To be commissary of subsistence, with rank of major, H. Clay Mullikin of Maryland.

To be assistant quartermaster, with rank of major, Noble H. Creager of Maryland.

To be commissary of subsistence, with rank of captain, Ralph P. Howell of Iowa City, Iowa.

For appointment in the signal corps: To be major, Capt. Richard E. Thompson, signal corps, U. S. A.

To be captain, Benjamin F. Montgomery of California; Philip J. Perkins of California; William W. Chances of Illinois; Albert C. Second of Michigan.

To be second lieutenant, William O. Bailey, first-class sergeant, signal corps, United States army; Francis Creighton, first-class sergeant, signal corps, United States army.

To be inspector general, with rank of major—James H. McLeary of Texas.

To be assistant adjutant general, with rank of major—First Lieutenant Harry C. Hale, 20th United States Infantry; Captain Louis A. Craig, 6th United States Cavalry; Captain William A. Simpson, 7th United States Artillery.

To be commissaries of subsistence, with rank of major—Captain David B. Wilson, 24th United States Infantry; First Lieutenant Hugh J. Gallagher, 6th United States Cavalry.

To be commissaries of subsistence, with rank of captain—Don A. Dodge of Minnesota.

To be additional paymasters—William G. Gambrell of Maryland; William J. Cowden of West Virginia; Moses Ransom Doyon of Wisconsin.

The guards yesterday captured a man

PRaise for Cervera

Spanish Admiral Congratulated on Reaching Santiago de Cuba.

THE NEW CABINET IS AGGRESSIVE

Admiral Camora Receives Instructions for the Cadiz Squadron.

LIEUT. CARANZA AGAIN

MADRID, May 20.—At 30 o'clock last evening the minister of marine, Capt. Anunzio, received a dispatch from Admiral Cervera, in command of the Cane Verde squadron of the Spanish fleet. It read: "SANTIAGO DE CUBA, May 19.—This morning I have, without incident, entered this port, accompanied by the squadron. (Signed) "CERVERA."

The minister of marine immediately went to the residence of the premier, Senor Sagasta, and communicated this information. He then proceeded to the palace for the purpose of informing the queen regent, but her majesty had already retired, and the news was conveyed to her by the Infanta Isabel.

Capt. Anunzio then went to the admiralty and cabled his congratulations to Admiral Cervera on his arrival at Santiago de Cuba.

Think the Americans Fled.

"Admiral Cervera," says a cable dispatch from Santiago de Cuba, "did not sight any American ships during the voyage. He announces that the crews of his ships are in perfect health, and enthusiastic." "Continuing, the dispatch says: "The blockading vessels quickly left on the approach of the squadron, whose arrival has created the greatest excitement and enthusiasm at Santiago. Immediately crowds of people thronged the quays and cheered our sailors."

Havana's relief at the safe arrival of the fleet is very great, as it was feared the American ships which left the blockade had gone to intercept the Spanish fleet. It is now believed the Americans fled in order to avoid a reverse."

In an interview today the minister of marine is quoted as saying: "I am greatly rejoiced at the safe arrival of the Spanish fleet at Santiago de Cuba. It is an immense triumph for the Spanish navy. The sailors who executed the movement and those who planned it are worthy of all praise."

Continuing, the minister said he congratulated himself upon the first event happening in his administration auguring so well for the navy and for the country.

Rumor of a Bombardment.

A dispatch from Havana says two American ships have been bombarded by Spanish guns, and adds that the Spanish gunboat San Antonio and a regiment of marines repulsed an attempt to land there. As usual, according to the Spanish version of such affairs, the Spaniards did not suffer any loss and the Americans retired.

Lieut. Arturo de Caranza, the former Spanish naval attaché at Washington, has arrived here. He is quoted as saying he was closely watched in Canada by agents of the United States government.

Advisers from Manila say the situation there has improved since August, 1897. It is added, has regulated the price of provisions.

It is also reported from Manila that the foreign colonists have sent the captain general expressions of sympathy with Spain. This is markedly the case with the German colony, and the action of the Germans is said to be due to orders received by the German consul from Berlin.

CHARLESTON SAILS TOMORROW.

Will Be About a Month Going to Manila.

VALLEJO, Cal., May 20.—The work of repairing the defects in the condensing tubes on the cruiser Charleston was completed at 5 o'clock this morning, but the vessel will not leave for Manila until tomorrow. A duplicate set of condenser tubes has been ordered from the Union Iron works, and it will take a great portion of today to inspect and test these new tubes.

Then the coal supply will be replenished and on the first tide tomorrow morning the Charleston will start on its fast run to Honolulu. It will probably take six days for this run, and after a couple of days spent in calling the Charleston will proceed on a leisurely gait of about eight knots an hour to Manila. This run will take about three weeks.

POLARIA WILL NOT GO TO HAVANA.

Decision Reached by the Agents of Hamburg-American Line.

NEW YORK, May 20.—Mr. Emil L. Boas, the New York agent of the Hamburg-American line, said this morning that the German steamer Polaria, which belongs to his line, was not going to Havana, as originally intended. He said that though the United States government had granted permission to the Polaria to pass the blockade, the decision had been reached to abandon that part of the steamer's voyage, because of the feeling that there would be a certain amount of embarrassment created to the government.

He added that the report that the government had revoked the permission granted to the Polaria to pass the blockade was incorrect, and the abandonment of it was solely due to the decision of the company to avoid embarrassing the government. He added that the Polaria left Key West early today for New York.

WILL START IN THIRTY-SIX HOURS.

No Truth in Rumors of Treachery on the Charleston.

VALLEJO, Cal., May 20.—Machinists from the Mare Island navy yard are working day and night upon the condenser tubes of the Charleston, and as the defects proved, upon closer investigation, to be much less serious than were anticipated before her return to the yard, it is very probable she will start afresh upon her long run to the Philippines within thirty-six hours.

The return of the cruiser naturally occasioned a good deal of comment at Vallejo. The gossip to the effect that the damage to the Charleston was the result of desertion and that a member of the crew was suspected is denounced by Capt. Glass as absolutely unfounded.

MISSION OF SENOR CAPOTE.

Vice President of Cuban Republic En Route to New York.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 20.—Senor Domingo Capote, whose landing on the north side of Jamaica from a sail boat in which he came from Cuba, was reported in the Associated Press dispatches from this place yesterday, as the vice president of the Cuban Republic.

Senor Capote is on the way to New York, where, from his official status, he will be able to represent effectively certain views of the Cuban chiefs. It is explained that there is no intention of supplanting Dr. Estrada Palma, who for several years has been at the head of the Cuban junta at New York.

Reinforcements Sent to Manila.

BARCELONA, May 20.—Between 8,000 and 10,000 Spanish troops, drawn from Catalonia, Andalusia, Aragon and Valencia, are embarking here for the Philippine Islands.

No confirmation at Kingston.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 20, 11 a.m.—No confirmation has yet been received here of the reported arrival of the Spanish Cape Verde fleet at Santiago de Cuba.

GENERAL LEE GONE

Left Washington This Morning for the Field.

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A joint resolution was also passed calling upon the Secretary of War for a report on the Sabine Pass improvement. At the conclusion of morning business consideration of the war revenue measure was resumed.

The pending question was upon section 25 of the bill, which had been struck out by the Senate and replaced by the committee. It authorized every firm or corporation selling goods under contract to add to the price such tax as might be levied by the law.

Mr. Wolcott (Col.) advocated the elimination of the paragraph. The committee amendment striking out the paragraph was agreed to.

To the stamp tax provision the committee, through Mr. Aldrich (R.I.), offered an amendment which would read: "to substitute for the tax on board of trade and stock exchange transactions, an agreement of sale, or agreement to sell, of any products or merchandise at any exchange, or board of trade or other similar place, for each \$100 in value of said sale or agreement of sale or agreement to sell, one cent, and for each additional \$100 or fractional part thereof to be added to the price of the goods or merchandise sold."

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He maintained, however, that absolutely no necessity existed for plunging the country into a great debt on account of the existing war. He would, he said, said, to mortgage posterity, to burden future generations with a debt, the example of which would be a constant temptation to extravagance.

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SOLDIERS IN COURT.

Members of New Jersey Regiment Guilty of Vandalism.

Robert Kellett and Robert Hyland, two members of the 1st Regiment of New Jersey Volunteers, were today fined \$5 each by Judge Scott in the Police Court for defacing one of the \$5,000 bronze doors at the Capitol by scratching their names upon it.

The fine was paid by Major H. W. Freeman of the regiment, who, with tears on his face, made this comment to the court: "These men have disgraced themselves, their state and me, but while they are guilty, I ask for mercy because of their ignorance."

The case was one of unusual vandalism with which the men were charged occurred early this morning at the Senate entrance of the Capitol building. Capt. Gardner of the police force, was notified of the case as it was discovered, and immediately took steps to apprehend the guilty parties. Their names were plainly and deeply scratched on the doors were "H. Hyland" and "Robert Kellett, Newark, N. J."

In addition to defacing the doors the end of a pistol in the hand of one of the figures was scratched. It was a very thorough search was made for the scene on the door which was the subject of the vandalism represented a farmer protecting his wife, children and home from an attack by a foreign soldier.

POLO SECURES COALING STATION.

It is Near St. Pierre, Miquelon, Off Newfoundland.

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Charged with Holding Back Report of Ohio Investigating Committee.

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